

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 170887

64

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:TJCAROLAN:JFC

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 170887

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE, US

SUBJECT: ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PALESTINIAN ROLE IN COL.

MORGAN'S RELEASE

REF: BEIRUT 8909

FOR AMBASSADOR GODLEY

1. AGREE WITH YOUR BASIC POINT THAT IT WOULD BE IN OUR
INTEREST TO SEND 'ARAFAT A SIGNAL THAT WE HAVE TAKEN
NOTE OF AND APPRECIATE EFFORTS OF SOME LEADING PALESTINIAN
PERSONALITIES TO SECURE COLONEL MORGAN'S RELEASE. WE
BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT MORE INDIRECT AND CONFIDENTIAL CHAN-
NEL THAN YOU RECOMMEND SHOULD BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE.
SUGGEST YOU CONSIDER USING SOME REASONABLY DISCREET CHAN-
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PAGE 02 STATE 170887

NEL SUCH AS GHASSAN TUEINI, WHO HAS GOOD CONNECTIONS WITH

PERSONS CLOSE TO 'ARAFAT AND HAS TRIED TO ACT AS GO-BETWEEN BETWEEN THEM AND EMBASSY IN PAST. IF TUEINI SEEMS TO YOU UNSUITABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE, WE WOULD DEFER TO YOUR JUDGMENT IN CHOOSING ANOTHER INTERMEDIARY ON WHOSE DISCRETION AND ACCESS TO 'ARAFAT YOU CAN SAFELY RELY.

2. MESSAGE ITSELF SHOULD BE IN GENERAL TERMS AND OF COURSE ORAL. POINT TO BE MADE IS THAT USG IS AWARE THAT SOME LEADING PALESTINIANS WORKED CONSTRUCTIVELY TO SECURE MORGAN'S RELEASE AND WERE IMPORTANT FACTOR IN FAVORABLE OUTCOME. WE APPRECIATE THEIR EFFORTS. KISSINGER

SECRET

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